



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR MILWAUKEE/WOW COUNTIES

MILWAUKEE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2004

NOVEMBER'S FIGURES CONTINUE TO SHOW IMPROVING LABOR MARKET

The unemployment rate of **Milwaukee County** was 5.7 percent in November. This was slightly lower by one-tenth of a percentage point compared to October's final rate. It is typical for the October to November figures to show very little change in unemployment rate. Annually, the county's unemployment rate is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in No-

vember 2003.

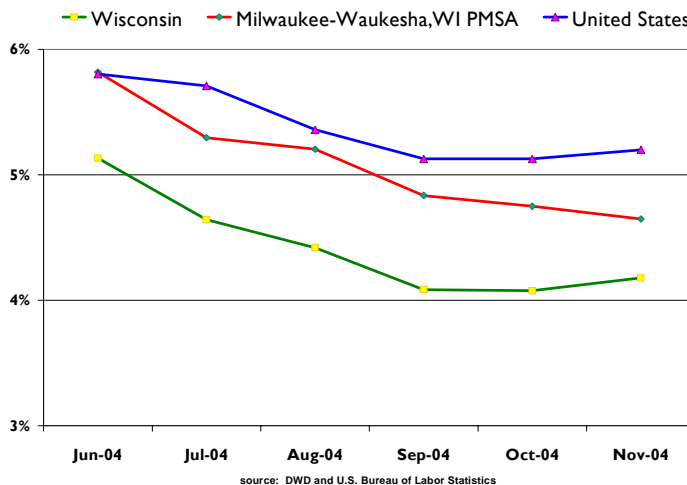
Washington County's November unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. Like two of the other three metro counties, its current rate is one-tenth of a point lower than in October. Its unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in November 2003. Washington's labor force has over 1,900 more employed residents

and 400 fewer unemployed fueling this annual decline in the unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate has registered below the three percent mark for the fifth straight month in **Ozaukee County** at 2.5 percent. This was unchanged from October. Ozaukee has also continued to show the largest annual rate decrease of the metro counties. Its unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in November 2003. This is Ozaukee County's lowest November unemployment rate since the 2.0 percent mark was measured in 2000.

Waukesha County's November unemployment rate was 3.1 percent. The current rate is lower than its month-ago and year-ago rates by one-tenth and eight-tenths percentage point, respectively. Waukesha County (and the other three metro counties) showed a monthly increase in its number of employed and at least a slight decrease in its unemployed. November 2003's la-

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: November 2004

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA			Milwaukee County		
	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03
Labor force	3,112,520	3,109,876	3,071,535	836,745	836,254	819,510	495,219	495,111	484,717
Employed	2,982,511	2,983,152	2,927,958	797,859	796,539	775,567	466,985	466,212	453,937
Unemployed	130,009	126,724	143,577	38,886	39,715	43,943	28,234	28,899	30,780
% Unemployed	4.2%	4.1%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	5.4%	5.7%	5.8%	6.4%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03	Nov-04	Oct-04	Nov-03
Labor force	71,047	70,951	69,557	49,447	49,390	48,738	221,033	220,803	216,499
Employed	68,545	68,431	66,630	48,217	48,137	46,870	214,113	213,759	208,131
Unemployed	2,502	2,520	2,927	1,230	1,253	1,868	6,920	7,044	8,368
% Unemployed	3.5%	3.6%	4.2%	2.5%	2.5%	3.8%	3.1%	3.2%	3.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: November 2004

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA		
	Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003	Nov. 2004	Change since Oct. 2004	Change since Nov. 2003
All Industries	2,872.6	4.5	67.6	852.3	0.8	17.1
Construction/Natural Resources	135.1	-2.7	2.5	32.9	-1.2	-1.1
Manufacturing	518.8	-1.0	15.9	136.4	0.3	1.3
Retail Trade	340.3	11.4	9.9	85.1	2.3	2.2
Wholesale Trade	120.0	1.3	6.8	41.9	0.4	2.1
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.7	0.2	0.9	32.4	0.1	1.1
Financial Activities	162.7	0.5	2.6	61.7	0.3	0.8
Education and Health Services	382.6	2.1	8.0	138.2	1.0	3.5
Leisure and Hospitality	240.6	-9.7	2.4	65.5	-0.9	3.5
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	443.1	-3.8	18.8	167.5	-2.1	6.1
Information	48.5	0.6	-0.3	19.5	0.2	0.3
Professional and Business Services	266.6	-2.8	18.4	108.8	-1.9	6.5
Other Services	128.0	-1.6	0.7	39.2	-0.4	-0.7
Fed/State/Local Government	419.7	6.2	-0.2	90.7	0.6	-2.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

bor force had about 6,000 fewer employed and 1,500 more unemployed participants demonstrating that the current recovery is positively impacting area workers.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 4.6 percent in November. Its rate dropped one-tenth of a point over the month following most of its component counties. November's unemployment rate was the lowest recorded in the metro area since September 2001. Annually, the rate is eight-tenths of a point lower than it was in November 2003. The metro area has almost 22,300 more employed residents and over 5,000 fewer unemployed compared to one year ago.

The industry employment tally from the nonfarm wage and salary survey estimated a total of 852,300 jobs in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA**. This overall figure is 800 jobs higher than it was in October, which is a bit smaller than the average increase in light of historical averages and is not alarming. Retail trade and education and health services lead the way in job growth over the month gaining

2,300 jobs and 1,000 jobs over the month, respectively. All of the job growth in the education and health services sector was actually centered in the health care and social assistance industry component. The gain in retail trade was a seasonally-oriented increase and was on par with expectations for November. Manufacturing employment gained 300 jobs over the month and its closely tied counterpart industry, wholesale trade, gained 400 jobs.

Sectors showing monthly employment losses were information, professional, business and other services (-2,100 jobs); construction (-1,200 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-900 jobs). These monthly losses were within the realm of past changes meaning that there are seasonal associations to these changes.

The annual change in the metro area industry employment tally has continued its string of annual job growth showing 17,100 more jobs overall (+2.0%) compared to November 2003. November marked the eighth consecutive month to show annual job growth in the MSA. The employment growth leaders were informa-

tion, professional, business and other services (+6,100 jobs); and education and health services (+3,500 jobs).. The growth of the former was centered in professional and business services employment. Retail trade and wholesale trade showed moderate employment growth as well. Leisure and hospitality employment, despite its seasonal loss over the month, has 3,500 more jobs than it did one year ago (+5.6%).

Only two sectors in the metro area did not show an annual increase in jobs, total government employment (-2,400 jobs); and construction and natural resources (-1,100 jobs). Neither of these sectors' losses are new phenomena as most of 2004 has shown annual employment decreases in these sectors.

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